



**ARMY MEDICINE**  
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

# ***Ambassadors Brief***

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## ***DENCOM Health Initiatives***

UNCLASSIFIED





*"Strengthening the health of our Nation by improving the oral health of our Army"*



# US Army Dental Command

## Mission

DENCOM provides responsive and reliable oral health services and influences Health to improve readiness and advance wellness in support of the Force, Military Families, and all those entrusted to our care.

## Vision

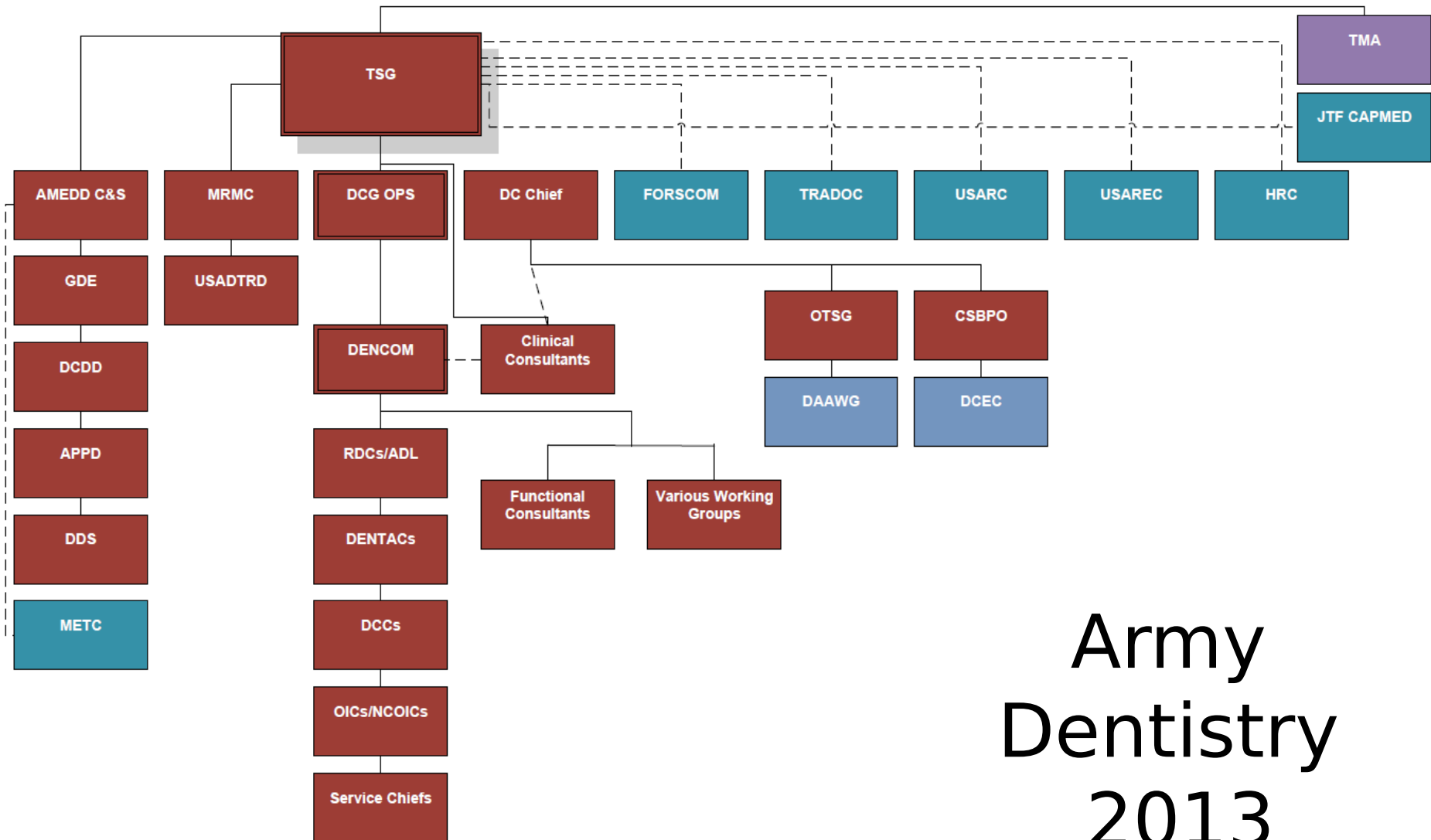
Strengthening the health of our Nation by improving the oral health of our Army



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# Army Dentistry



Army  
Dentistry  
2013








***“Strengthening the health of our Nation by improving the oral health of our Army”***



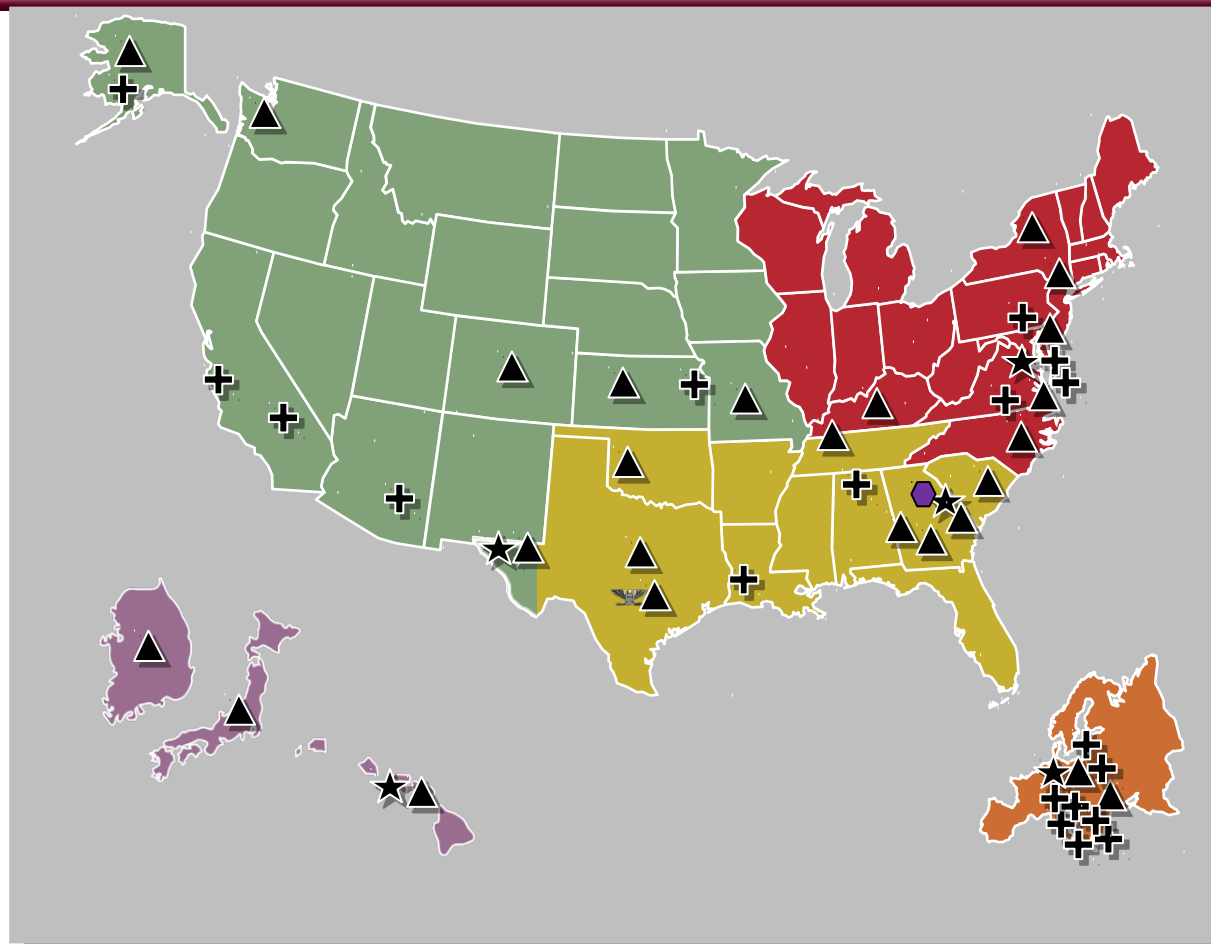
# DENCOM Organization

## DENTAL ORGANIZATION

FACILITY TYPE		QUANTIT Y
DENCOM Headquarters		1
REGIONAL DENTAL COMMANDS		5
ARMY DENTAL LABORATORY		1
DENTAL ACTIVITIES		25
DENTAL CLINIC COMMANDS		19
DENTAL CLINICS		132

## PARENT FACILITY LOCATIONS

DENCOM Headquarters	Joint Base San Antonio, TX
Northern RDC	Fort Belvoir, VA
Southern RDC	Fort Gordon, GA
Western RDC	Fort Bliss, TX
European RDC	Heidelberg, Germany
Pacific RDC	Tripler, HI
Army Dental Laboratory	Fort Gordon, GA



**MISSION STATEMENT:** DENCOM provides responsive and reliable oral health services and influences Health to improve readiness and advance wellness in support of the Force, Military Families, and all those entrusted to our care.



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# Dental Readiness Categories

- DRC 1 – no dental treatment needed (**wellness**)
- DRC 2 – dental treatment needed but Soldier is deployable (**readiness**)
- DRC 3 – dental treatment needed and a condition exists that will require emergency treatment within 12 months (**non-deployable**)
- DRC 4 – annual dental exam required (status unknown, **non-deployable**)



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# Go First Class (GFC) Initiative

## GFC - Single dental appointment for annual exam, cleaning, and simple fillings

### Current = Reactive

- React to high OPTEMPO needs to achieve **readiness** (DRC 2)
- DRC 2 Soldiers do not routinely return for care
- DRC 2 become DRC 3 – non-deployable
- Multiple appointments to attain readiness, not wellness
- DRC 4 “walk in” & mass/block exams - inefficient/labor intensive
- Minimum of 3 separate appointments – exam, cleaning, fillings to achieve wellness (DRC 1)
- **\*\*2.5 million hours of Soldiers’ time away from unit at DTFs for exam, cleaning, and initiate fillings over 3 separate appointments**

### GFC = Proactive

- Designed to achieve **wellness** (DRC 1) – proactive approach
- 50% of Soldiers achieve wellness in single appointment
- **\*DRC 1 five times less likely to experience dental emergency than DRC 3**
- Single appointment for exam, cleaning, simple fillings – wellness achieved
- Shifts from inefficiencies of mass/block exams to population management over 12 months
- Reduces actual time in DTF - Soldiers time away from unit decreases by approx. 50% = 1.25 million hours
- **\*\*1.25 million hours = 143 years of time returned to Army annually**
- **\*\*\*1.25 million hours in E4 pay/benefits**

**\$31,250,000 annually**

\*\*\* Based on \$25/hour for pay +

\*Use of Dental Disease Nonbattle Injuries Emergent Module to Assess the Emergency Rate on an Army Military Installation Within The United States. Colthirst P, DeNicolo P, Will R, Simecek J. Military Medicine, 177, 9:1100, 2012

\*\* Based on end strength of 500,000 AD Soldiers

benefits



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# Go First Class Implementation



## Implementation Plan

- Worldwide Defense Connect Online sessions conducted with follow-up Q&As
- Army-wide execution schedule for 1 July 2013
- 132 dental treatment facilities across the command
- Mass dental exam events phased out
- Wounded Warrior Care priority
- Urgent care remains priority
- DRC 3 and DRC 2 Soldiers continue to be treated



*Army Dentistry Virtual Symposium via  
DCO*

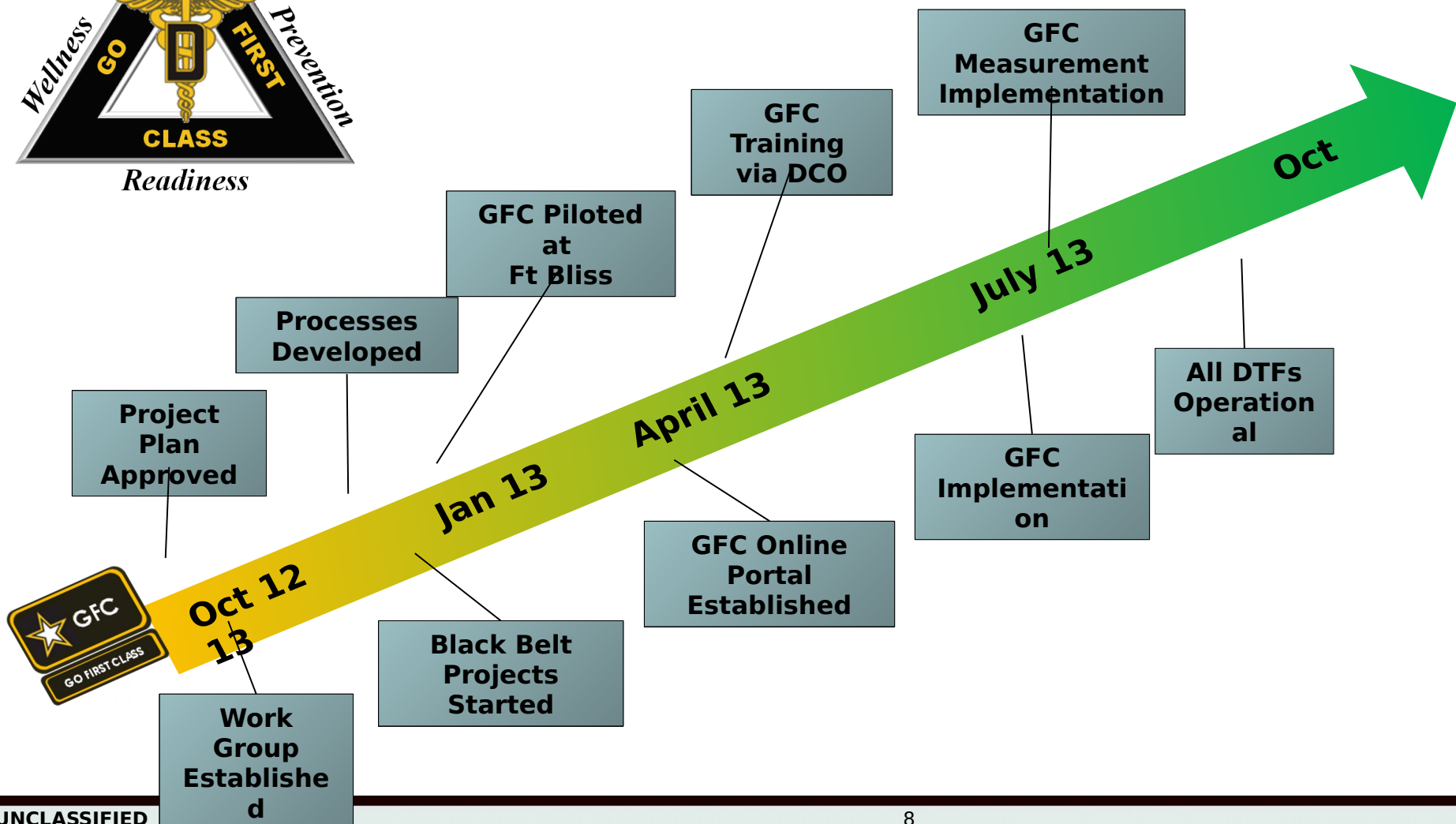
*16 April 2013 - Rhoades Dental Clinic*



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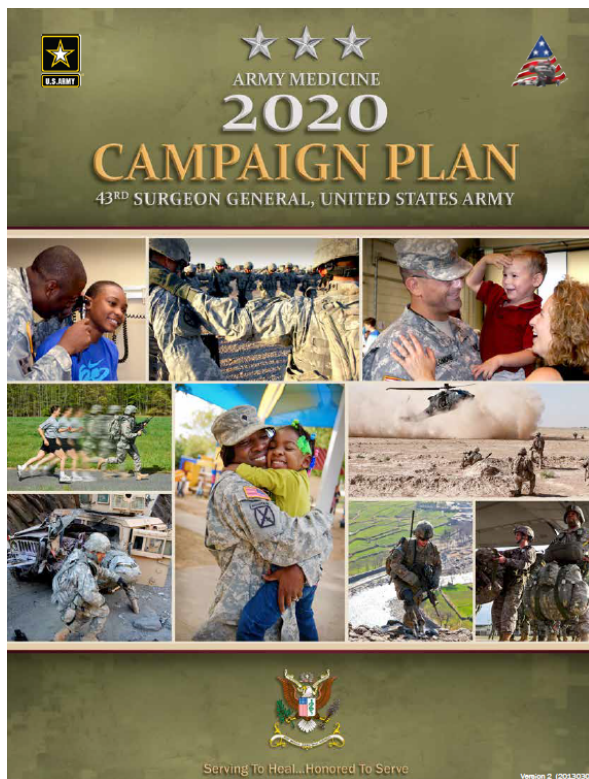
# Go First Class Timeline





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# Go First Class and Army Medicine 2020



- The Go First Class initiative is nested within the Army Medicine 2020 Campaign Plan
- Go First Class support Lines of Effort 1 and 3

## **LOE 1: Create Capacity**

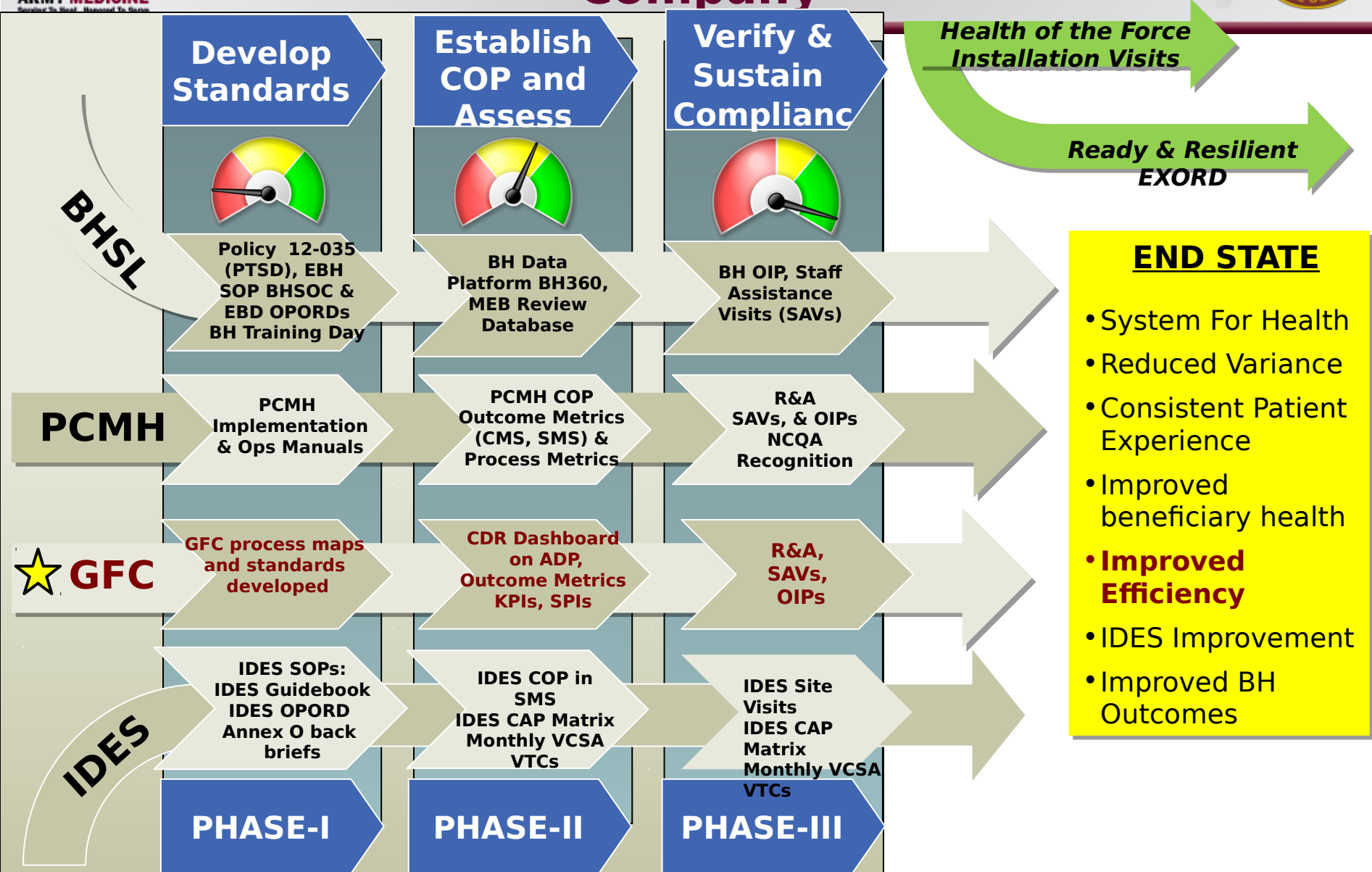
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- 50% of Soldiers achieve wellness in single appointment

## **LOE 3: Improve Stamina**



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# GFC - A part of the MEDCOM Operating Company





## ***FY13 Trends***

- Increase in DRC 1 (27.5% to 35.1%)
- Steady increase in direct care (83.1% to 86.5%)
- Steady increase in available provider FTEs
- Monthly average assigned FTEs dropped, but available FTEs rose
- 17% drop in DRC2 unmet treatment needs



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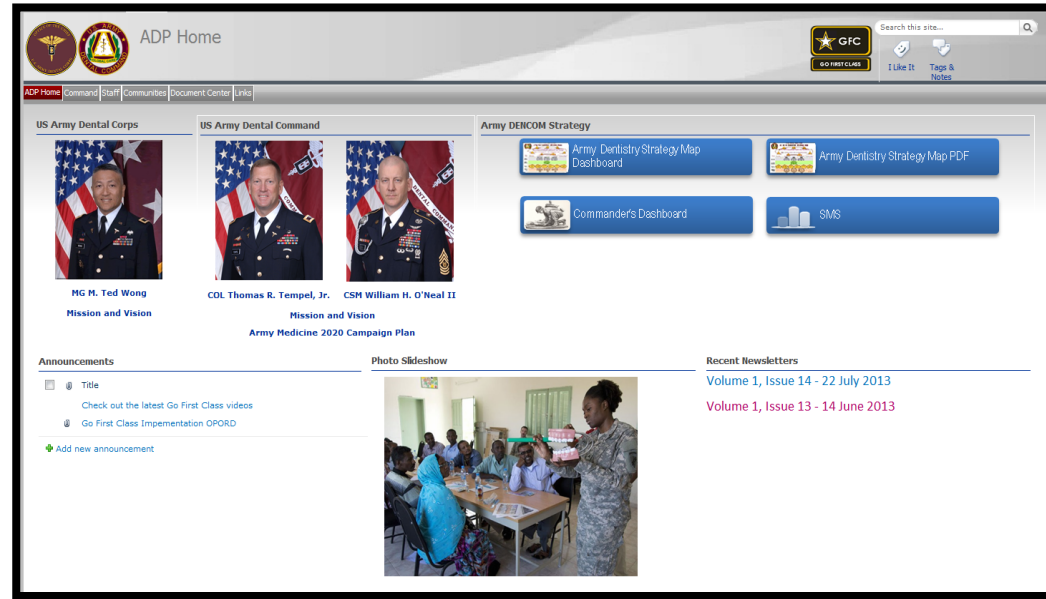
# **Command Support Requested for GFC**

- Move away from mass/block/SRP exams
- Soldiers must remain in clinic to initiate/complete treatment (can't refuse to stay - e.g., "I can't stay for any fillings because.....")
- Reinforce importance of Soldiers keeping scheduled GFC appointments - no failed appointments - each failed appointment is ~ \$378 in lost productivity
- Launch date - 1 July 2013

# Useful Websites



Go First Class Website



Army Dentistry Portal

[www.armygfc.info](http://www.armygfc.info)

<https://info.dencom.army.mil/SitePages/Home.aspx>



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# **A Proud Heritage**

*Supporting our nation for over 100 years!*



**US Army Dental Command**

December 7, 2012



DENCOM HQs staff had a great visit today with LTG Patricia Horoho, The Surgeon General and Commanding General of the United States Army Medical Command.



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